

# WELLS CATHEDRAL

Saturday 30 July 2011 at 7pm



SOMERSET CHAMBER CHOIR  
*'one of the finest groups  
of singers in the region'*  
SOMERSET COUNTY GAZETTE

# BACH

## Mass in B minor

EMMA KIRKBY soprano

TIM MEAD countertenor

NICHOLAS MULROY tenor

SAMUEL EVANS bass

CANZONA Theresa Caudle director

**SOMERSET  
CHAMBER  
CHOIR**

GRAHAM CALDBECK conductor

Tickets: £28, £25, £20, £18 (reserved), £14 & £10 (unreserved)

from Taunton TIC: 01823 336344 or online: [www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk](http://www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk)

Somerset Chamber Choir: Registered charity no. 1003687

Bach Mass in B minor '...we feel as though the genius of the last two thousand years were soaring above our heads.' Philipp Spitta c. 1873

There is something almost unearthly in the solitary eminence which the B Minor Mass occupies in history.' Philipp Spitta c. 1873

Bach Mass in B minor Wells Cathedral Saturday 30 July - Bach Mass in B minor Wells Cathedral Saturday 30 July

# BACH Mass in B minor

**Bach's Mass in B Minor** is justly celebrated as one of the most impressive choral masterpieces ever composed. A glittering collection of Bach's finest vocal music, the Mass was compiled by the composer shortly before his death and intended as his musical monument.

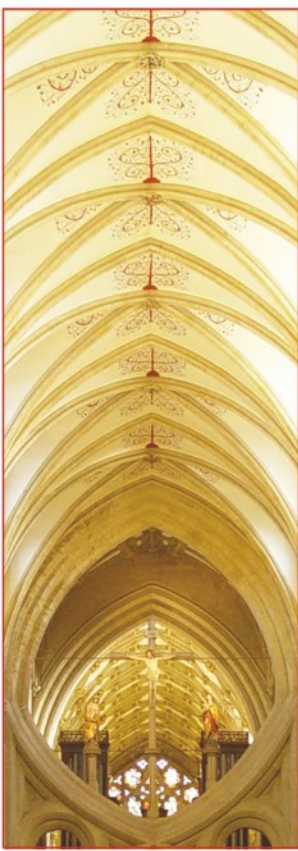
For many, the work is one of the wonders of the world – the musical equivalent, perhaps, of Michelangelo's paintings in the Sistine Chapel in Rome, Christopher Wren's architecture in St Paul's Cathedral or Shakespeare's achievement as a playwright.

Even by Bach's own extraordinary standards, the emotional profundity and majestic proportions of this work are astonishing. It is this meeting of naked emotion and limitless skill that draws performers and audiences back to Bach's masterpiece again and again. The music is hugely varied, ranging in scale from the arresting opening with its majestic block chords, through impressive choruses framed by brilliant trumpet fanfares and fizzing string writing, to intimate, heartfelt solo arias and duets, often in partnership with beautiful solo instrumental writing.

**Somerset Chamber Choir** again welcomes the period instrument orchestra **Canzona**, led by its director **Theresa Caudle** and comprising some of this country's leading Baroque players. For over a decade, Canzona has collaborated with the choir in a series of acclaimed performances in Wells of works by Purcell, Charpentier, Lalande, Bach, Handel, Scarlatti and Vivaldi.

World-famous soprano (and now choir Patron) **Dame Emma Kirkby** makes her fifth appearance with the choir, alongside three of the UK's most exciting young vocal soloists, **Tim Mead** countertenor, **Nicholas Mulroy** tenor and **Samuel Evans** bass, all with outstanding reputations as insightful and stylish performers of Baroque music.

Why not join us for this performance of probably the greatest choral work ever written in the delightful setting of Wells Cathedral on a summer's evening? This concert promises to be the musical event of 2011 in Somerset - early booking is highly recommended!



Wells Cathedral Concert Seating Plan - East Facing

- Gold - £28
- Green - £25
- Red - £20
- Blue - £18
- Brown - £14
- White - £10



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**£14, £10 (side aisles unreserved)**  
available from

**Taunton TIC: 01823 336344**  
(Mon - Sat 9.30am - 4.30pm)  
**online: [www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk](http://www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk)**  
or Wells Cathedral shop

**Public booking opens Monday 16th May**  
**Friends priority booking opens Monday 18th April**  
**Call 01823 336344**  
or visit [www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk](http://www.somersetchamberchoir.org.uk)  
to find out how to become a Friend of the choir  
and receive priority booking.

The right is reserved, without incurring liability, to substitute artists and to vary the programme for reasons beyond our control, although these details are correct at the time of going to press.

Bach Mass in B minor: 'the greatest work of music of all ages and of all peoples...' Hans-Georg Nägeli 1817